Chemical toilets in trains

525. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the need to put in place basic infrastructure including clean toilets and safe waste disposal;

(b) whether Government are also considering to use sophisticated techology to provide for installation of chemical toilets in trains and build adequate toilet,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what steps Government contemplate to check the spread of diseases and breed germs which can contaiminate food served on stations and trains due to excreta on tracks and non-disposal of waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Railways are in the process of developing/procuring environment friendly toilets for passenger coaches. Besides efforts to develop such toilets in the country, action is also in hand to procure small quantities of Biological Toilets and Vacuum Toilets for field experience before resorting to bulk fitment.

(d) Does not arise.

Unhygienic food served in trains

526. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are complaints that food provided in the trains is unhygienic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that government are thinking to take help of branded private food companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?